

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 03486 051454Z

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ACTION H-03

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R 051347Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6966

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 3486

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP (DUPONT, PIERRE S)

SUBJ: CODEL DUPONT - VISIT TO ISRAEL

REF: TEL AVIV 3416 (NOTAL)

1. CONGRESSMAN PIERRE S DUPONT IV PAID TWO AND ONE-HALF DAY VISIT TO ISRAEL JUNE 1 - 4, ACCOMPANIED BY MRS DUPONT AND MS ALISON BRENNER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE STAFF. CODEL MET WITH FONMIN ALLON AND DEFMIN PERES AND WITH MKS ARIE ELIAV AND AVIAD YAFEH. SCHEDULED MEETING WITH PRIMIN RABIN JUNE 2 WAS CANCELLED DUE TO ANNOUNCEMENT THAT DAY OF ISRAELI THINOUT OF FORCES ON SUEZ FRONT. CODEL ALSO TOURED GOLAN HEIGHTS AND LEBANESE BORDER AREAS AND MET WITH AN MFA SPOKESMAN ON QUESTION OF SYRIAN JEWRY. CODEL VISIT WAS ADJUNCT TO MAIN MISSION IN PERSIAN GULF COUNTRIES BUT PROVED HIGHLY VALUABLE ORIENTATION TO COMPLEXITIES OF MIDDLE EAST SITUATION. CHARGE AND DATT HAD TWO HOUR MEETING WITH CODEL SHORTLY AFTER ARRIVAL. EMBOFF ATTENDED ALL MEETINGS AT REQUEST OF CODEL.

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PAGE 02 TEL AV 03486 051454Z

2. CODEL USED OPPORTUNITY OF MEETING WITH DEFMIN PERES

TO OBTAIN ISRAELI PERSPECTIVE ON RAMIFICATION OF US ARMS SALES TO GULF COUNTRIES. PERES SAID THAT ISRAEL WAS NOT AT ALL WORRIED ABOUT IRAN, BUT WAS CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS IN KUWAIT AND SAUDI ARABIA. IRAN HAD STRONGEST SOCIAL STRUCTURE OF THE GULF NATIONS AND WAS NOT BELLIGERENT NATION. AFTER ALL, IT HAD THAT LONG FRONTIER WITH USSR. INTRODUCTION OF VAST QUANTITY OF MODERN ARMS IN SOCIALLY UNDER-DEVELOPED NATION LIKE SAUDI ARABIA OR KUWAIT, HOWEVER, THREATENED STABILITY OF PRESENT SOCIAL/POLITICAL STRUCTURE. IN ABSENCE OF OTHER INSTITUTIONS MODERNIZED ARMY WOULD ULTIMATELY OVERTHROW TRADITIONAL PRINCES. PERES FURTHER SUGGESTED THAT INTRODUCTION OF ARMY OF MODERN SIZE AND EQUIPMENT WILL CHANGE ROLE SAUDI ARABIA PLAYS IN ARAB WORLD. IN EVENT OF ANOTHER WAR SAUDI ARABIA AND KUWAIT WILL BE UNDER GREAT PRESSURE NOT ONLY TO TRANSFER ARMS BUT ALSO TO PARTICIPATE, AND HE FORESAW REAL CHANCE SAUDI ARABIAN ARMY MIGHT CAUSE TROUBLE IN STRAITS OF TIRAN. ADDITIONAL DANGER FOR US, PERES ARGUED, LAY IN POSSIBILITY THAT FUTURE ARMY REGIME IN SAUDI ARABIA WOULD TURN TO USSR. ON QUESTION OF ISRAELI \$2.5 BILLION AID REQUEST, PERES ARGUED THAT CONGRESS SHOULD NOT LOOK AT DOLLAR FIGURE, WHICH INCLUDED US R&D COSTS, PROFITS, ETC, BUT AT ACTUAL EQUIPMENT REQUESTED WHICH REPRESENTED A TRUE MINIMUM FOR ISRAELI DEFENSE NEEDS. HE SPECIFICALLY CITED LANCE MISSILE AS EXAMPLE OF PIECE OF EQUIPMENT WHICH WOULD PERHAPS NOT BE NECESSARY FOR ISRAEL TO WIN NEXT WAR BUT WHICH PLAYS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL ROLE IN DETERRENCE.

3. MEETING WITH FONMIN ALLON FOCUSED ON TOPICS OF SUEZ CANAL OPENING AND ISRAELI THINOUT OF FORCES (SEE REFTTEL). ASKED ABOUT OTHER ELEMENTS OF A SETTLEMENT, ALLON TOLD CODEL THAT ESSENTIAL ELEMENT WAS THAT ISRAEL HAVE DEFENSIBLE BORDERS. SOMETIMES EVEN QUOTE TWO LOUSY KILOMETERS UNQUOTE COULD BE CRUCIAL. ISRAEL NEEDED DIFFERENT, MORE DEFENSIBLE BOUNDARIES THAN 1949, PLUS SOME SORT OF DEMILITARIZED ZONE. HE THOUGHT BOTH SIDES SHOULD HAVE MUTUAL EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS, BECAUSE ELIMINATION OF POSSIBILITY OF SURPRISE ATTACK WOULD GREATLY

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 TEL AV 03486 051454Z

REDUCE CHANCE OF ANY ATTACK AT ALL. AS FINAL POINT ALLON ADDED THAT STABLE ISRAEL IN MIDDLE EAST WAS INVALUABLE ASSET TO US AND NATO. HE PERSONALLY (AND CONFIDENTIALLY) FELT THAT ISRAEL SHOULD BECOME MEMBER OF NATO.

4. MEETINGS WITH ANTI-ADMINISTRATION MK ELIAV AND WITH MAJORITY WHIP YAFEH WERE ALSO OF CONSIDERABLE INTEREST. ELIAV TOLD CODEL THAT IN HIS OPINION ISRAEL MUST AS

FIRST STEP MAKE UNILATERAL DECLARATION OF INTENT, STATE  
TRANSFER LABEL OF INFLEXIBILITY TO ARABS. FAILURE OF  
RABIN GOVERNMENT TO TAKE INITIATIVES ALONG THESE LINES  
CAUSED ELIAV TO CALL RABIN QUOTE POLITICAL COWARD  
UNQUOTE. ELIAV'S OWN CONCEPTION OF PEACE SETTLEMENT  
INCLUDED MUTUAL GUARANTEES AND MUTUAL INSPECTION OF  
DEMILITARIZED AREA. PROBLEM OF WEST BANK WAS NOT ISRAEL'S  
PROBLEM, IT WAS HUSSEIN'S PROBLEM. PEOPLE ON WEST BANK  
SHOULD MAKE THEIR OWN DECISIONS ABOUT THEIR GOVERNMENT.  
MK YAFEH STRESSED DEMILITARIZATION AND ALSO SUGGESTED  
JOINT ARAB-ISRAELI INSPECTION. IN THIS CONNECTION HE  
SAID THAT ISRAEL HAD NEVER SAID IT WOULD ANNEX SHARM-EL-  
SHEIKH, ONLY THAT IT DEMANDED CONTROL. HE EVEN THOUGHT  
THAT ISRAEL WOULD GIVE UP SHARM-EL-SHEIKH IF ABSOLUTELY  
SURE OF DEMILITARIZATION. PARADOXICALLY, HOWEVER, HE FELT THIS  
WAS NEXT TO IMPOSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE, AND AFTER 1967 ISRAEL  
WOULD NEVER TRUST THE UN AGAIN FOR ANYTHING.  
VELIOTES

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